



## Jump week for 'The Rock'

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell  
173rd Airborne Brigade Public Affairs

MANIAGO, Italy – Stopping traffic and narrowly beating out some bad weather, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne) once again took to the skies, conducting airborne operations July 27 on and near Aviano Air Base.

The paratroopers conducted airborne operations that entire week, jumping nearly 1,300 parachutes, with no major malfunctions, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Meyers, Battalion command sergeant major.

The Rock's training objectives for the mission were to use order and scenario-driven training to increase airborne efficiency from team leader pre-combat checks and inspections all the way up to battalion command and control of the operations, according to Lt. Col. William Ostlund, 2-503d Inf (Abn) commander.

The simple act of jumping out of the aircraft is not the most important part of being a paratrooper; it is the entire process from beginning to end, or "Objective Secure," emphasized Meyers.

"The paratroopers and leaders know they are required to know all aspects of the mission: from the departure airfield through all units' assembly plans/points on the drop zone and all mission objectives," said Meyers.

"No where else does a Soldier know that, for a while, he as a private, will rely on himself to link up with his buddies and assemble with his company on a dark moonless night, in a foreign drop zone, which he will physically see for the first time when he exits the aircraft while in flight," said Meyers.

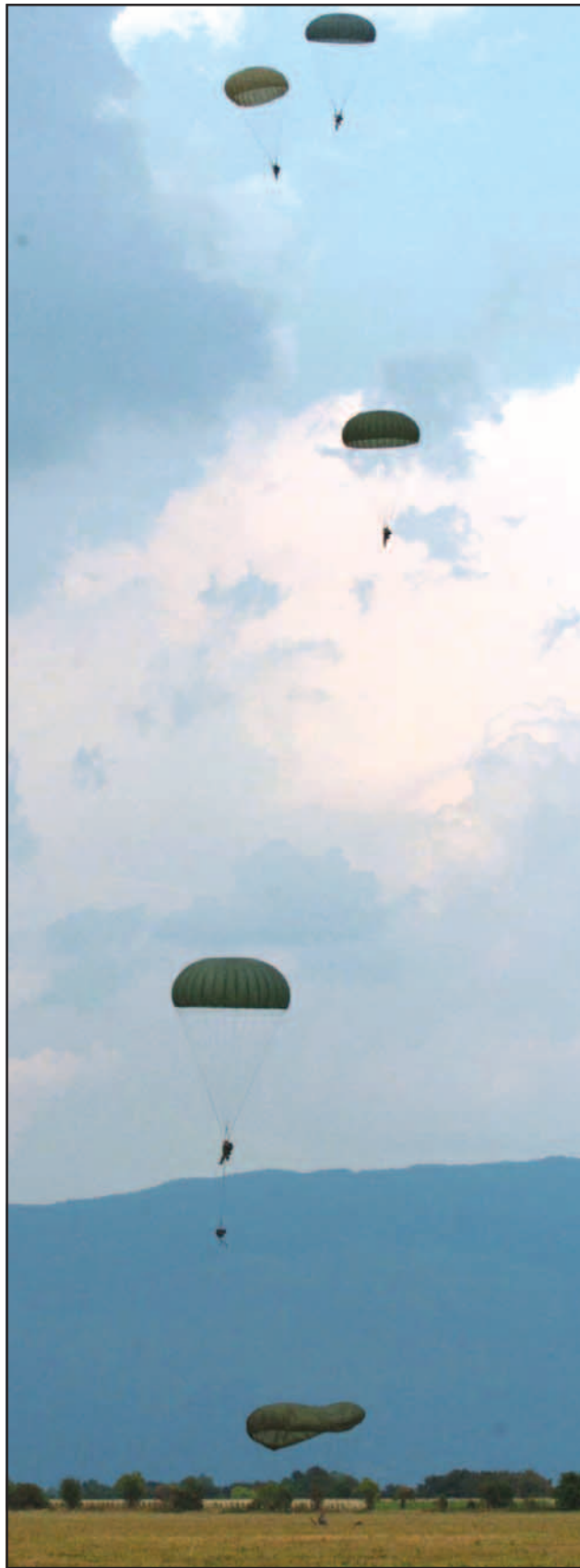
"The self-confidence that this instills in paratroopers is priceless and is what sets them in a class of their own as Soldiers," said Meyers, "They face their own fears every time they get on an aircraft and they are lead by focused leaders with an eye for detail."

In regards to the training conducted specifically during the last week of July, The Rock's leadership had nothing but praise for their Soldiers.

"They learned a lot about flexibility and physical toughness due to drops being cancelled because of maintenance or weather conditions," said Meyers. "Paratroopers were rigging, jumping, and assembling in combat equipment in category 5 heat conditions both day and night, sometimes being in a parachute harness for four to six hours without complaint."

"We learned a lot at all levels as we achieved our objectives," said Ostlund, "Leaders at all levels, coupled with committed young paratroopers, ensured the success of our training."

"All made multiple jumps and some volunteered to fill extra chutes," said Meyers, "Their enthusiasm for the job is contagious."



Paratroopers from the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne) sail through a darkening sky July 27 during airborne operations conducted near Maniago, Italy. Area locals pulled to the side of the road to watch the spectacle.

## Rice chosen to lead SETAF NCO corps

SETAF Public  
Affairs Office  
Press Release



Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, SETAF commander announced his command sergeant major selection in late July.

Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice, currently serving as the Garrison command sergeant major at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, will arrive at SETAF later in August.

While he may be the new SETAF sergeant major, Rice is no stranger to Italy or the Vicenza military community.

Having served here from 2002 through 2005 as the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne) sergeant major and the 173d Airborne Brigade sergeant major, he saw action in Iraq during the that unit's historic deployment there.

"Wow," said Rice, when asked about his opinion of returning to Italy. "What an honor to serve as the command sergeant major for the SETAF."

"SETAF is the 911 force for United States Army Europe," he continued. "I am looking forward to being a part of the transformation for building an even more lethal force there. With the quiet professionals, who are already on the ground, serving on this team will be awesome."

He added that he and his wife, Bertha, are looking forward to working with, and living alongside, the great families who make up this community.



Paratroopers make their way to a rally point after a successful jump near Maniago, Italy.

## Demolition of Villaggio housing will make way for new school complex

Directorate of Public Works  
Special to the Outlook

By Aug. 1, 2007, 100 Villaggio housing units (see shaded area of map) are programmed for turnover to a contractor to be demolished in order to make way for a DoDDS Elementary and Middle School project.

This mean all 100 units must be vacated well before the end of July 2007.

Most of the families who were living in one of these units during the recent Afghanistan deployment and spring 2006 reintegration cycle will empty the units via normal PCS attrition this summer and next summer.

Approximately 40 families will rotate out the summer of 2006 and approximately an additional 47 families will rotate out the summer of 2007.

Those remaining assigned families, with a DEROS date beyond the summer of 2007, will be relocated to government-leased housing or private rental housing via a government paid move.

The Housing Office will work closely with those families, on an exception basis, to find alternative housing months in advance of the turnover date.

The primary use of vacated units in the target demolition area will be temporary assignment.

This category involves arriving families seeking private rental housing, who have been on Temporary Lodging Allowance in a hotel for 30-days, but have not yet occupied private rental quarters.

By regulation, after 30 days, these families will be assigned to government-controlled quarters (in Villaggio or leased on the economy), "if" they are available, until they can move into a private rental unit.

In this instance, household goods delivery will be delayed until private rental quarters are secured, however, complete government furnishings support will be provided and hold baggage may be delivered to the temporary unit.

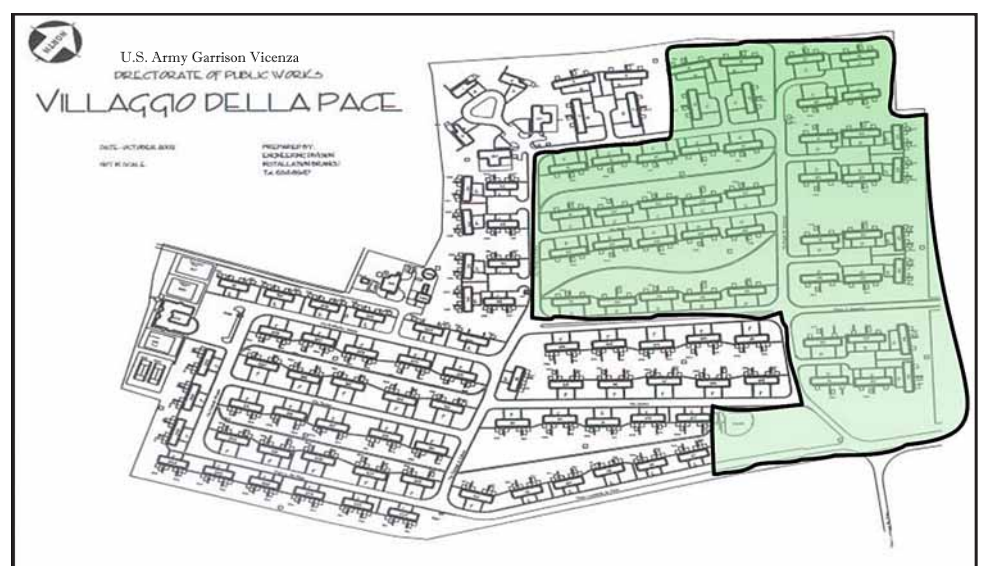
Families arriving in Vicenza with pets may also find it preferable to take a temporary assignment to an available vacated

demolition unit, rather staying in a hotel while they seek permanent housing.

Alternatively, assuming a unit is available in their pay grade and bedroom category, arriving families may elect voluntary assignment to a vacated Villaggio demolition unit for a minimum period of six months, if

the sponsor acknowledges the requirement to move again before July 2007.

Choosing this course of action will permit delivery of household goods and a subsequent government paid move at a later date. No assignments of this type will be made after December 2006.





# Understanding force protection helps keep community safe

By Kelli Covlin  
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

"It is important that everyone in our community understands the force protection levels and what the different levels mean," said Larry Kilgore, antiterrorism and force protection program manager for USAG Vicenza. "Only when community members, including Soldiers, civilians and their families, are aware of the current threat level and of their surroundings, can we have a successful Antiterrorism and Force Protection Program."

There are five different levels of Department of Defense FPCON used, and they range from NORMAL, the lowest level, to DELTA, the highest level, according to Kilgore.

In USAREUR's area of operations, posts use only four of the FPCON levels: ALPHA through DELTA, with ALPHA being the minimum level allowed.

Also, each FPCON level has three sublevels of alpha, bravo and charlie, which relate to heightened states of the individual levels.

All these levels can get confusing, but what is important to know, is that at each level and sublevel, DoD has a set of operations called Force Protection Measures used to deter terrorist activity.

These measures include such areas as checking vehicles upon entering the post gates, checking ID cards of people entering the post exchange or commissary, or simply walking around post looking for suspicious activities.

"Around post and at our other locations, such as Villaggio, many different actions are taking place," said Kilgore. "Some of these are noticeable, but many take place behind the scenes."

With each increase in level, there is an increase not only in the different measures taken, but also in the frequency of those measures.

The measures are conducted on a random basis. This is important because it keeps anyone watching the post or gathering information guessing as to what is being done when.

This works as a deterrent to

possible terrorist activity, said Kilgore.

For the Vicenza military community, the base FPCON level is determined by EUCOM and then passed down through the USAREUR channels. The post commander must maintain the measures at a minimum to what the level is set at, but can also set the level higher if he feels it is prudent based on the current intelligence.

So, what does it mean when you see FPCON B blinking at you as you drive on and off post?

This is the post's FPCON level based on the current threat of terrorist activity.

Here is what each FPCON level means:

When the post is at FPCON ALPHA, it means there is an increased general threat of possible terrorist activity against people and facilities, but there isn't any specific information about what the threat is, or whom it is directed towards. Since ALPHA is the lowest level available to commanders here, they must be able to maintain all the measures required at FPCON ALPHA indefinitely.

FPCON BRAVO applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists. At BRAVO, it has been determined by U.S. intelligence sources that there is terrorist activity in the area and they may or may not act, but more specifics on the terrorist existence is known. At FPCON BRAVO, the commander must maintain all the measures required under ALPHA and add to them the measures that are required under BRAVO and its sublevel.

At FPCON CHARLIE, an incident has occurred or intelligence is received indicating that some form of terrorist action against people or

facilities (offices, buildings) is likely. The measures that are taken at FPCON CHARLIE are likely to create hardships for the community and affect the activities of the post. Hardships to the community could consist of closing certain post gates to make access to the post more difficult, or inspecting every vehicle as it enters post, or increase patrols around post and other facilities by Military Police and Carabinieri.

FPCON DELTA is the highest FPCON level. It is put into effect immediately when a terrorist attack has occurred, or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location or person is going to happen. The post cannot maintain FPCON DELTA for an extended period of time because measures taken at DELTA are severe such as possible closing the post to normal incoming or outgoing traffic.

"We need everyone's help in staying alert and keeping our community safe," said Kilgore.



Pop-up barriers at gates are just one way to keep post safe from terrorist acts. (Outlook file photo)

## Antiterrorism/Force Protection meetings

The Antiterrorism/Force Protection Office hosts a semi-monthly meeting with unit antiterrorism officers.

Dates and times are available through the SETAF Antiterrorism officer Darryl Bowman at [Darryl.Bowman@setaf.army.mil](mailto:Darryl.Bowman@setaf.army.mil) or the USAG Vicenza AT/FP office, Larry Kilgore or Pat Hooper at 634-8288/8489.

The post is currently at FPCON B.

Contact your unit ATO or the above individuals for more information.

## U.S. European Command urges travel safety notice for Germany

By Maj. Pamela A.Q. Cook  
U.S. European Command Public Affairs

The U.S. European Command is encouraging increased vigilance for servicemembers traveling within Germany after some improvised explosive devices were discovered in unattended suitcases in train stations in Dortmund and Koblenz earlier this week.

German authorities are currently investigating the incidents and have stepped up surveillance of train stations throughout the country.

Defense Department personnel traveling within Germany are asked to be cautious and aware of their surroundings.

Travelers are encouraged to keep baggage with them, to not watch bags for strangers, and to notify authorities about unattended bags or other suspicious activities.

"Everyone should maintain awareness of their surroundings and notify authorities of unattended luggage or packages immediately," said Army Maj. Norman Matzke, Antiterrorism Current Operations officer for EUCOM. "These simple measures could spoil a potential terrorist attack."

## Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues affecting the community. If you have an issue you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at [www.usag.vicenza.army.mil](http://www.usag.vicenza.army.mil) and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

**The next CAC will be Aug. 23 beginning at 10 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.**

**Issue:** I read with great interest a recent Outlook article "New Dental Clinic expansion opens."

The article mentioned 10 new dental chairs and three new x-ray machines.

*Presently, we (retirees) are allowed to see a dentist by showing up and waiting for a space available slot.*

*However, every time I have waited and seen a dentist I was told that I could not have dental work done. This was because it would involve follow up work (which most dental work does) and that would require an appointment which was not authorized for military retirees.*

**Recommendation:** Open appointments for military retirees or at least allow follow up appointments for those who have come in under the space available program.

**Response from Dental Command:** The U.S. Army Dental Command's primary mission is to maintain the dental readiness of active duty Soldiers and as such, is not resourced to provide routine dental care to other than active duty patients.

A. The active military receive the number one priority spacing for our appointments.

B. Space available care is prioritized:

- ◆ Active duty family members are first
- ◆ Retired from active duty personnel are second
- ◆ Family members of retired personnel are third
- ◆ All others, to include pay patients and GS employees fourth.

C. We have currently just completed the exam phase of the reintegration of 2,500 active duty personnel who have been without routine dental care for a year.

Our mission and focus is to return this force to a readiness state that will allow them to train and redeploy when needed.

Currently the demand for active duty appointments is very high and space

available care is at a minimum.

D. The clinic expansion was designed to allow this clinic to transition and grow with a transitioning military population. We have not yet received all of the additional staffing that will accompany the facility expansion. Our staff will increase as our active population increases.

E. Under no foreseeable circumstance will our staffing be increased to allow for the routine care of military retirees and their family members.

Although some space available appointment time will become available, space available appointment time is not predictable. Due to our inability to predict space available care, it is not in the best interests of our space available patients to initiate multiple appointment care without knowing if and when the next appointment will take place.

F. Eligible beneficiaries who are unable or unwilling to comply with our space availability policy will be provided with a list of local English-speaking providers who will allow for appointed routine care.

**Issue:** My wife, who is Italian, has been applying for positions on Caserma Ederle for a month now with no reasonable help from the employment office.

I was under the impression that we, as Americans, gave jobs to qualified persons not just because they were born on U.S. soil.

I am disappointed that she as a college graduate in economics, who can speak four languages and does not qualify for a job at the clinic, sitting behind a desk.

**Recommendation:** Hire people on their credentials not on where they were born. My

wife and all other wives who are local nationals deserve the same opportunities as U.S. citizens. After all they are part of the military community as well.

**Response from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center:** Both the U.S. Code and the Code of Federal Regulations require U.S. citizenship in order to be employed under the U.S. system.

Under the U.S. system, spouses of military members receive priority for employment.

Under our current labor contract, the U.S. Forces must consider hiring local national employees for all newly-established manpower needs.

In fact, the number of Italian and other EU employees greatly outnumbers the number of U.S. positions.

The current negotiated employment regulations contain no preference or priority for military spouses within the Italian LN employment program.

Due to the hiring restrictions established by the vice Chief of Staff of the Army, which have been effective since June 5, the number of recruit actions has been drastically reduced, resulting in increased competition for those vacancies that have been recruited. This has caused a lot of frustration for job seekers in both the U.S. and LN employment programs.

CPAC is always happy to provide general information regarding the U.S. and LN hiring processes, and to provide individual counseling to applicants.

Assistance is also available at the Employment Readiness Program office at Army Community Services, located in the Davis Family Readiness Center.



# Prices rise for fuel coupons

The Outlook  
Press Release

The price of gasoline coupons in Italy will jump 19 cents a gallon in August, more than double the increase announced last week by AAFES for Department of Defense personnel living elsewhere in Europe.

The retail price for a 100-liter gasoline booklet will go from \$79 to \$84, and a 200-liter booklet will increase from \$158 to \$168, according to a news release from the Tax-Free Gas Coupon Program office.

The per-liter booklet prices translate to roughly \$3.18 per gallon.

The retail price for a 100-liter diesel booklet will go from \$85 to \$87 and a 200-liter booklet will increase from \$170 to \$174, a jump to \$3.30 a gallon from \$3.22.

The Naples office of tax-free products sets fuel prices for all U.S. military and NATO personnel serving in Italy. The

## Italy/Germany Gas Coupon Information

As prescribed by the Naval Support Tax Free Administration and The Italian Ministry of Defense, DoD personnel are authorized the following gas coupons:

Personal use:  
A.P-coupon: Vehicle registration determines the amount of fuel you will be entitled to monthly.

B.You will be allowed equal amounts of German fuel coupons as Italian.

4.Coupon books have valuable information on them, please read them.

TDY and Leave:  
Authorization points to determine how much fuel coupons you are entitled to are:

1. POL Fuel Point: Hours of operation:8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday except Italian holidays. POL is located at building 200, behind the Hall of Heroes, and just before the AAFES Car Care Center.

2. Military Police station: Only when POL Fuel Point is closed. Located in building 4B, across from the Dental Clinic.

Note: You must present your orders, vehicle registration or rental agreement and

office sets each month’s price of fuel coupons by calculating changes in the price of fuel, changes in the euro-conversion rate to the dollar, and any profits or losses the Navy Exchanges incurred the month before, officials have said. While the euro-dollar rate remained mostly unchanged over the past month, the price of crude oil hit a record of \$77 a barrel in July.

There are no gas stations on the military bases in Italy, so patrons must redeem the coupons at any Agip or Esso station off base. Personnel in Italy have access only to unleaded gasoline. Use of super unleaded stopped several years ago.

AAFES, which provides fuel services to U.S. personnel stationed in other European countries, announced a rise of about 7 cents per gallon over July prices, citing in a news release the increasing violence in Middle East, which boosted the price of crude oil.

identification to the authorizing personnel.

Personnel with a registered vehicle on Caserma Ederle who going on leave are allowed extra liters – up to 400 liters to include their current ration amount.

*Personnel with a monthly ration of 400 liters a month cannot get extra liters for leave.*

Refunds:

1. Naval Support Tax Free instructions state that no one person can have in possession more than two months’ P-coupon rations at any time.

P-coupons expire Sept. 30 and are refundable till Jan. 30 of the following year, i.e. coupons expire Sept. 30, 2006, you can get a refund until Jan. 30, 2007.

2. G-fuel coupons issued to personnel not stationed at Caserma Ederle can be mailed in for refund.

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:  
AAFES Europe- Italy  
EFA Office- Aviano AB  
Unit 6195  
APO, AE. 09601

*Reference for the above information comes from the NAVSUPPACT, NAPLES INST. 10340*

# Changes made to School Lunch Program

AAFES  
Press Release

The new school year brings on changes to the menus on both the USDA line and the a-la-carte line that are significant.

In the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, the U.S. Congress established a new requirement that all school districts with federally-funded school meal programs develop and implement wellness policies that address nutrition and physical activity by the start of the 2006-2007 school year.

This means that many menu items that AAFES currently serves will be replaced by “healthier” alternatives. The greatest impact will be the elimination of fried foods and high-sugar drinks from the a-la-carte line.

The school cafeteria offers two separate choices for lunch: The regular USDA reimbursable tray lunch and the a-la-carte serving line; otherwise known as the “Cool School Café.”

The regular lunch is a pattern meal set forth and approved by an AAFES staff dietician following USDA guidelines for nutritional wholesomeness. *This is the only meal that is covered under the free and reduced lunch program.*

The a-la-carte lunch is a snack bar

type serving line that sells a variety of food and snack items individually - all at full price.

The accounts in the Fast Lane register system are **General** and **Meal**. Please note that the use of both General and Meal are on one account.

The **General account** allows child to eat anything, anywhere in the cafeteria. The only limitation is parental choice of a daily spending limit. To keep things simple, the General account, accepts all types of meal charges.

Elementary School students can purchase only ice cream from the a-la carte line. To allow your child permission to purchase a-la-carte, breakfast items, or extra portions on the USDA line, parents must come in person to the cash cage to unlock the General account, even if money is present in that account.

The a-la-carte line is not covered by the free and reduced lunch programs.

The a-la carte line can only be used by Middle and High School students. Parents of Elementary School students who are allowed ice cream must open a general account.

The General account is automatically blocked by default, which means that children will only be able to purchase tray lunches using a pin. Accounts are set up

similar to a rechargeable cell phone using a pin number. Money is deposited into your child’s account and the pin number is used by your child to make charges against the account.

**Meal accounts** are only for the the USDA tray selection. This entitlement is for those with free and reduced lunch authorizations and for those parents who do not want their child to eat any snack foods. Second trays and second helpings on the USDA line are also **not covered** by the meal account.

The parent and the child are responsible for controlling the accounts and their balances.

Parents will be notified of a zero account balance, but it is recommended that parents monitor the balance of a child’s account to avoid running out of money.

The AAFES staff at the school cafeteria can provide you with your child’s account balance.

We alert only that an account is at zero, therefore, if you receive this notice, please inquire and reconcile the account at the AAFES cash cage in the post exchange quickly.

Reminder: All accounts were deactivated during the summer. Accounts will only be re-opened after a parent comes to the cash cage in the post exchange to fill out an application and select a General or Meal account.

## Sports Shorts

By Ricky Jackson  
Sports and Fitness Center

The USAG Vicenza Sports & Fitness Office is seeking dedicated volunteer coaches who would like to contribute to developing a community sports team.

Coaches are needed for all the listed upcoming Championships and ongoing sports programs. If you’re interested or need more information, contact the Sports & Fitness Office at 634-7009 or 7887.

USAG Vicenza Unit and Recreational Softball League, July 27 results:

■ (M) Post Team (8) vs. Health Clinic (13)

USAG Vicenza Basketball

Summer League, July 24 and 26 results:

■ Sandwiches (36) vs. Horsemen (45)

■ Sandwiches (13) vs. B-Playaz (37)

■ 386th MCT (25 ) vs. Crashers (64)

■ Sandwiches (45) vs. Expect It! (103)

USAG Vicenza Unit/Recreational Soccer League starts about Aug. 14, Monday and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

USAG Vicenza Flag Football Unit/Recreational League starts about Aug. 17 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

USAG Vicenza Sports & Fitness and CYS Sports & Fitness Tennis Tournament is set for Sept. 15-17.

USAG Vicenza Pick-up Basketball is ongoing, Monday-Friday, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Fitness Center.

**Other news:**

Army Europe Softball Championship is Aug. 17-20 in

Grafenwoehr, Germany.

IMA Europe Wrestling Tournament is Sept. 23 in Heidelberg, Germany.

US Forces Europe Body Building Championship is Oct. 7 in Darmstadt, Germany.

IMA-Europe Basketball Tournament is set for Oct. 7 in Heidelberg.

Army Europe Soccer Championship is set for Oct. 12-15 in Heidelberg.

US Forces Europe Combat Cross Country Championship is set for Oct. 19 in Darmstadt.

IMA Boxing Tournament will be Oct. 21 in Heidelberg.

Army Europe Flag Football Championship will be held Nov. 17-18 in Bamberg.

IMA-Europe Power Lifting Tournament will be held Nov. 18 in Heidelberg.

Contact Ricky Jackson, Sports & Fitness office, 634-7009 for details on the above events.

## The Outlook

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# Installation Mentorship Program underway

By Cindy Pierson  
EEO Director  
Special to the Outlook

Recruitment of mentors and associates is underway for Caserma Ederle’s Installation Mentorship Program.

The mentorship program is a civilian employee development program with an emphasis on career interests, goals and needs.

A mentor is a more experienced or senior employee who accepts responsibility for assisting an associate (mentee) by guiding the associate’s career, advising on career opportunities and evaluating the associate’s progress toward specific goals and objectives.

A mentor is a person who has a

sincere desire to enhance the success of others.

Mentors can increase their professional network, receive recognition from their peers, enhance leadership and interpersonal skills and pass on organizational legacies.

The associate (mentee) is an employee at any grade level in any occupational series who participates with a mentor to attain career goals.

Associates acquire knowledge and develop skills which may give them opportunities for better assignments; they interact with the experts and receive one on one feedback; work with a role model; and may have the potential for career advancement and promotion.

The IMP is open to U.S. appropriated and non-appropriated fund employees.

Participation is on a voluntary basis and mentors are outside the supervisory chain of the associate.

Individuals interested in becoming a mentor and/or associate should contact the EEO Office at 634-7976 for a nomination form, which must be returned by Aug. 10.

Participants will be notified in writing of their acceptance into the program and will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding and agreement to follow program guidelines.

Mentors and associates will be notified to attend an orientation on Aug. 24 from 10:30-11:30 a.m., in the Hall of Heroes.



# 13th Military Police Company tackles historic march

By 2nd Lt. Andrew Sergeant  
13th Military Police Company

Upon returning from Afghanistan in March, 15 Soldiers from the 13<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company set their sights on a new task--completing the Nijmegen, Holland, 100 mile march. The march started out as a military event in 1909, but opened to civilians in 1910. Now, the annual march draws about 40,000 people.

To complete this march and receive the *Vierdagsekruis* medal, the Soldiers would have to walk 40 kilometers a day for four days in BDU's, while carrying a rucksack that weighed at least 22 lbs, not including drinking water.

"I have always heard how hard this march was and wanted to see for myself," said Spc. Eric Holman, who was one of the two medics on the march.

Leading the team was 2nd Lt. Andrew Sergeant, with the remaining 14 Soldiers broken down into two, seven-man marching teams.

Taking charge of the 'slow' team was Staff Sgt. Lloyd Reding, with Staff Sgt. Albert Brodeen, Staff Sgt. Noah Edmund, Sgt. Daniel Michael, Sgt. Jeremy Colquit, Spc. Eric Holman (team medic) and Spc. Edwin Zerpa.

The 'slower' team was led by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Perdue, with Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Bly, Sgt. Kenneth Everdale, Sgt. Reyna Martinez (team medic), Sgt. Travis Tilley, Sgt. Jocelyn White and Cpl. Jason Lowe. Even though Perdue led the slower team, everyone wound up marching together.

Training for the event began April 1 to Monte Berico, via the "Dark Side," with the Soldiers marching with packs weighing at least 30 lbs.

Each march got progressively harder and culminated with a 30K hike. Some marches were conducted back-to-back to get Soldiers used to the short healing time and constant stress on the body. Training at this pace also gave the troops an opportunity to find out where they were going to blister,

and how to tape the blisters so they could keep going. Each team had a medic assigned, who also gained experience on how to effectively treat blisters and other march-related ailments.

On June 1, the MPs resumed their community law enforcement mission on Caserma Ederle, which put some strain on the Soldiers who were training for the march. However, this is exactly what made our team so great – Soldiers marched after they got off shift and made other commitments to continue the training. Each Soldier walked an average of 80 miles in preparation for this event, with some Soldiers walking in excess of 100 miles.

At 5 a.m. on July 18, the Soldiers lined up on the start line. The MPs were placed in 8th position out of 19 U.S. Army teams. Final adjustments were made to packs and Everdale, who had a small set of speakers mounted to his rucksack plugged into his iPod®, cranked out "Born in the U.S.A." to get the Soldiers motivated.

Two miles into the march, the troops joined the civilian march route, which was flooded with marchers walking elbow-to-elbow, trying to move forward. By now, both time and miles were going by quickly and Everdale took music requests from the crowd. This went on for another 13 miles.

The temperature rose as the day went on and by noon the group was at mile 15 and the temperature had reached 90 degrees.

With 10 miles to go the team was starting to feel the affects from the heat. Ambulances started to part the sea of marchers about every 45 minutes and every one started to take breaks more frequently.

At mile 17, the Soldiers reached the Arnhem Bridge and took a final break. It was the last chance to treat

blisters and rehydrate, and the break wound up lasting for an hour and a half.

During this break, the two medics, Martinez and Holman, handed out Motrin® and applied mole skin to sore and blistered feet.

Since this was the only shaded area within five miles it was crowded with marchers trying to beat the heat.

The Soldiers decided to push on and finish the march. The next eight miles were the hardest of the day as everyone was exhausted. The combination of the heat and the walk took its toll on everyone.

We passed a temperature gauge on the way to the finish line and the numbers flashed 95 degrees. This did not affect the team's morale, as everyone was just as eager to complete this march as they were at the start line earlier that morning.

The team crossed the finish line in 4th place, which energized the Soldiers, who were proud and ready to go again the next day.

**Top: Soldiers of the 13th Military Police Company, based in Vicenza, march down the road on the first leg of the 100 mile Nijmegen walk in Holland. Because of the extreme temperatures and heat casualties the march was cancelled after the first day. Right: Spc. Edwin Zerpa (left) has his blistered feet tended to by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Perdue during a break on the march. (Photos courtesy of 13th MP Company)**



Then word came that the march was cancelled because of two deaths, with another person in critical condition, and more than 300 people reported as heat casualties.

As the day came to an end official statistics came out. This was the highlight of the whole event. The 15 Soldiers from the 13th Military Police Company had achieved what few others had that day – out of 19 U.S. teams only seven had completed the march in the required time, of the seven only three teams finished the day without having a team member drop out.

"Day one was a lot more difficult than I had expected," said Holman. "A 30- pound ruck is not much

weight until you reach about mile 18, then it starts to wear on your body. I contribute our teams' preparation and cohesion to our success. After spending so many hours with the other team members I saw how motivated they were to complete this march. In order to do this you need quality Soldiers like the ones we have and I owe it to them to be there next year."

Sergeant is building a new training plan and making a roster for next year's team. If you are interested and cannot find a team, the MPs welcome you to their team.

Contact Sergeant, 13th Military Police Company, at 634-7065 for details.



## Special Troops Battalion Soldiers brave Holland heat

**Story and photo by Capt. Vincent Enriquez**  
*Alpha Company Executive Officer*  
*173d Special Troops Battalion*

NIJMEGAN, Holland — Five members of Alpha Company, 173rd Special Troops Battalion participated in this year's annual Nijmegen March in the Netherlands July 17 and 18.

The march has been held for over 90 years in the city of Nijmegen, located approximately 120 kilometers southeast of Amsterdam.

The event is a four-day march with both military and civilian participants. Unfortunately, the march ended early this year because of an increasing number of heat casualties that quickly overwhelmed the attending medical staff.

The five paratroopers of Alpha Company, however, successfully completed the first 25 miles without incident. They were among only three U.S. Army units out of 19 entered to complete the first day.

"The heat was rough, but I'm here to represent the 173d!" commented a motivated and relieved Spc. Matthew Chebret upon completion of the march. Chebret carried the brigade guidon throughout most of the first day.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Bradford, the senior NCOIC of the group, was the primary driving force of the team. His fired-up cadence calling encouraged not only members of this team but was an inspiration to many others.



"I think my favorite part of the march was when foreign armies picked up calling our cadence with us; we even got a couple requests along the way," stated Pvt. Adam Walsh, the most junior member of this year's team.

This year approximately 40,000 marchers were registered with roughly 4,900 of those being members of various militaries. There was a diverse mix of soldiers from around the world, many coming from as far away as Australia and Canada to participate in this march.

While the cancellation was unfortunate, the soldiers from the participating nations made the best of it, nursing blistered feet, and getting to know one another for the remaining scheduled days.

"Events like this both challenge individuals and help to build camaraderie among nations that normally don't get to work or train together except down range," said Sgt. Stephen Dodge, describing the importance of participation in this year's march.

**Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Alpha Company, Special Troops Battalion, marched side by side with civilians and Soldiers from armies around the world July 17 and 18 during the annual Nijmegen March in Holland.**



# Italian Soldiers learn from American fighting experience

**Sgt. David Hopkins**  
SETAF Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 7th Alpini Regiment, located in Belluno, were involved with Military Operations Urban Terrain and Engagement Skills Trainer training at Caserma Ederle Aug. 2 and 3 to prepare for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

The Soldiers went through a variety of scenarios on the North 40 that were Iraq and Afghanistan based. The drills included entering and clearing rooms and buildings and target discrimination and fire control.

"This is part of the Partner for Piece program," said Staff Sgt. Gaetano Mortati, G-3 instructor. "We give the Italians training from our experience down range. This is one of the most important exercises in preparing to go into Afghanistan. They get there and have to search houses and buildings."

Mortati, who spent time in the Italian army before joining the U.S. Army gave the instruction to the Italian Soldiers. He is bilingual and has a grasp on both the technical Italian military vocabulary and U.S. doctrine.

"The training took place over two days in the EST," said Mortati. "It has different computerized scenarios such as check points, villages, ambushes or assaults. Through this

we can see the reaction of the Soldiers – especially with civilians thrown into the mix. We can see if they are fast to go to the trigger and just start shooting, or if they are thinking before they take action."

It was new experience for many of the Italian Soldiers, who had never done this kind of training, but which is considered essential for the current war in the Middle East.

"A lot of them have never done this before, but they are learning fast," said Mortati. "I've done this for two years now and I really see an improvement since their army changed over from a draft army to an all volunteer army."

The leadership of the 7th Alpini Regiment was positive about the training and future exercises at Caserma Ederle.

"They were very enthusiastic about the training and the importance for preparing their junior leaders for the rest of the tactical training planned in the months ahead," said Col. Gordon Davis, SETAF chief of staff.

The Italian Soldiers will be going through more training before their scheduled deployment in November.

"It's great we have the opportunity to give this training to the deploying units," said Mortati. "It's a relationship we've had for a long time and, hopefully, we can continue providing this training."



Staff Sgt. Gaetano Mortati (second from right), SETAF G-3 instructor, puts Soldiers from the "Feltre" Alpini Battalion, 7th Alpini Regiment, based in Belluno, through Military Operations Urban Terrain training in the Caserma Ederle MOUT Training Facility. The Soldiers, who are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan later this fall, went through a variety of scenarios on the North 40 that were Iraq and Afghanistan based. The drills included entering and clearing rooms and buildings and target discrimination and fire control. "A lot of them have never done this before, but they are learning fast," said Mortati. (Photo courtesy of Col. Gordon Davis, SETAF)

## Caserma Ederle volunteer honored as IMA-E Best Friend of Recreation

**Story and photos by Anna Vallery**

*Summer Hire*

USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

It all started about eight years ago for John Beamish, when he was finishing an Italian language course on Caserma Ederle. At the end of one of the classes, he was approached by Bonnie Daniels, wife of Ross Daniels, who, at that time, was the theater director for the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The question Bonnie had for Beamish was simple, did he want to be in an upcoming play at Soldiers' Theatre?

He took the question up with his family and a few weeks later, he was performing as one of the lead actors in Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream.

Now, after almost a decade of volunteering, Beamish was awarded the Installation Management Agency-Europe Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation award for Best Friend of Recreation, for his outstanding work with Soldiers' Theatre.

"I was asked to see about entering one of our long-time volunteers for the Friends of Recreation competition," said Ross Daniels, who is back as Theater director for Soldiers' Theatre after a three-year hiatus. "John

Beamish immediately came to mind."

What exactly has John Beamish done over the past eight years to deserve this award? Although his face may not be instantly recognizable, much of his handiwork can be seen in almost every production Soldiers Theatre has put on. "John has helped with the changes to the facility, making sets, and all technical aspects that go into theater," said Daniels. "He has had a really big impact on this program. John can rack up hundreds of hours during a set of shows. He is and has been instrumental in volunteering around the

theatre on projects not connected to production. He has accumulated thousand of hours over his tenure here."

"I do mostly technical things," Beamish said. "I help build the sets, and I occasionally make the props. I also set up lights and help run the lights during some of the shows. Actually, the only play that I can remember that I haven't done anything on, was the Tolstoy Story. The props were so generic, they really didn't need anything built."

When not spending time at the theater, Beamish has a few other things on his plate.

"I have a couple other hobbies," said Beamish. "I enjoy skydiving and I do a lot of activities with my family. I also like tinkering around at the house, too."

Not only is Beamish a volunteer, an extreme sport fanatic, and a family man, but he holds down a full-time job with AAFES.

"I work at the AAFES Headquarters office," he explained. "My main job is official distribution, but, I have a long list of things I do for AAFES."

Although he enjoys his job at AAFES,



John Beamish adjusts a light used during productions at Soldiers' Theatre. Beamish was honored as IMA-Europe's Best Friend of Recreation. As a 'day job', Beamish works in distribution for AAFES Headquarters in Vicenza.

Beamish would much rather be volunteering at Soldiers' Theatre.

"I don't consider what I do for Soldiers' Theatre as work," said Beamish. "There is a big difference. When you go to work, you go to work. When you volunteer to work, generally, that means you enjoy what you are doing."



John Beamish (left) helps Ross Daniels, Theater director for Soldiers' Theatre, hang up awards in the theater's dressing rooms. Helping with small tasks like this are just a few of the many items he has done for the theater and is why he was nominated for Best Friend of Recreation.

## Summer Splash beats the heat

Left: A young boy participates in Putt Putt Golf, one of the stations set up during Summer Splash 2006 sponsored by AAFES and held at the parking lot of the Post Exchange July 29. Right: A child knocks down all the pins in another game. Children had the chance to participate in several activities such as basketball shoot, darts and dunk tank. All participants received prizes. Face painting was also offered by the USO and a mini-auction of AAFES merchandise concluded the event. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)





# Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

### Events in and around Vicenza

In Vicenza’s city center, find the main squares filled with antique vendors Aug. 13, open 8 a.m. to sundown.

Art exhibition with works by the Vicentino artist Luigi Rossetto being held in the art gallery *La Rindola* located on *Via Rancani*, in the town of Durlo di Crespadoro, 31 km from Vicenza. The exhibition, *Durlo en Plein Air*, is open 10 a.m.-noon and 2:30-10 p.m. Entrance is free.

Aug. 10: The town of Lonigo will celebrate “the falling star night” in Piazza Garibaldi with music and wine tasting from 9-11 p.m.

On the same night, the town of Barbarano Vicentino will have a wine tasting night starting at 8 p.m. in Palazzo dei Canonici.

Bruce Springsteen will perform in the grounds of Villa Manin in the town of Codroipo, province of Udine, on Oct. 4 at 9:15 p.m. Tickets cost 57.50 euro.

Nov. 11: World Wrestling Entertainment, where, among other wrestlers, see Rey Mysterio, Kurt Angle, Booker T. and Batista in the *Pala Trieste*, in Trieste at 9 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets cost from 34.50-115 euro. Last year this event was a sellout a few days after the tickets went on sale.

Dinner under the stars in the gardens of the castle located in Bevilacqua, province of Verona, on Aug. 10 at 9:30 p.m. Cost is 20 euro per person. Wine and typical produce of the area will be served. For reservations call 0442-93655.

Aug. 15: Water festival in the town of Recoaro Terme, province of Vicenza, which is famous for it’s mineral water. The inhabitants will be dressed in early 18th century costume and parade in the main square of the town “tasting the water,” where nine of the original springs have been reconstructed. Restaurants will be serving their traditional dish: *Gnuchi con La Fioreta*, potato dumplings with a cottage cheese sauce. There will also be a small market selling typical produce from the area. To be able to drink all the water that you can, free, visit Recoaro. Events start at 10 a.m.

The town of Melara, in the province of Rovigo, will be holding a *zucca*, pumpkin, festival Aug. 12-13 and 19-20. In the main square and in the restaurants of the town, pumpkin will be served in many

different ways with the main dish being the pasta, *tortelli di zucca*, which will be made exclusively by hand and served to all present.

Food stands are open on Sundays from noon-2 p.m. and starting at 7 p.m. Directions from Vicenza (95 km): Take the autostrada A4 west to Verona Sud exit, take the SS12 in the direction of the towns of Buttapietra, Isola della Scala, Nogara to arrive at Malara.

Craft market with more than 130 vendors in the town of Cison di Valmarino from 10 a.m. to midnight. Also find food stands. Cison is 76 km from Vicenza.

The Oasi Rossi, located near the town of Santorso, Vicenza, is where you can find tropical butterflies, courtyard animals, and children’s playground. The Villa Rossi gardens and other areas will be closed Aug. 14-15.

### Public holiday

Aug. 15, is the feast of the Assumption, is known as *ferroagosto* in Italy and is one of the most important public holidays in the calendar. Coming right in the middle of the traditional vacation month, it sees millions of Italians at the coast and in the mountains, ready to take part in the many local feasts and celebrations.

While some of these are of a religious nature, many, as one could imagine, are gastronomic events where tasting the local specialties and eating convivially with your neighbors become the whole point of the exercise. So, while the cities are sad, deserted places and populated practically exclusively by bargain and culture seeking foreigners, the resorts and towns are buzzing with people having a good time.

Decide for yourself: some Italian cities benefit greatly by this summer exodus and you can go sightseeing in gratifying peace. On the other hand, if you want to witness the heart-warming spectacle of Italians enjoying themselves, get out into the countryside and take part in the nearest town *sagra*.

### Waterfall park

The *Parco delle Cascate*, the waterfall park, in the town of Fumane, province of Verona, is a natural oasis covering an area of 150 square meters featuring

beautiful scenery that grips the emotions. Depending on the trail you take, you can see falls, mini-falls, lakes, wells, and old mills all immersed in green vegetation.

As soon as you go through the entrance, where you get your ticket at the information office located near-by, you will also receive a trail map, which maps out the 1/2 hour, one hour, or two hour trails routes. Or go to *www.cascatemolina.it/ilparcocartinagrande.htm* and download one before you go.

You can first visit a botanical museum, see the remains of an old mill and dairy, then follow a path that goes down towards the center of a gorge, following the path of the river that runs slowly forming small emerald-green ponds. In the park there are several waterfalls to include the Green, Bear’s Well, Great Pothole, and Dusty waterfalls. Also find in the park a mini climbing and picnic area and a small bar selling sandwiches, toast and beverages.

The park is open everyday from 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. until Oct. 1, then open only on festive days from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Entrance fees: adults and children over 12 years of age - 4 euro; children 6-12 years of age - 2,50 euro; and younger than 6 years of age are free. There is also an entrance fee to visit the museum of 1,50 euro.

The park is located 66 km from Vicenza. Guided tours are also available by phoning 045-772-0185. English is spoken.

### Shooting stars

Aug. 10 is known by different names; some call it *La Notte di San Lorenzo*, others say The night of the shooting stars; the falling stars of desire; or the tears of Saint Lorenzo – but for astronomers they are just Perseides, a shower of meteors that appear to originate in the vicinity of the constellation Perseus. This occurrence is best seen after 10 p.m., nowadays later than Aug. 10, between Aug. 11-12 and 12-13. But whichever evening you decide to see them, share it with a friend and don’t forget to make a wish when you see a falling star.

### Buskers festival

The Ferrara Buskers Festival is a non competitive parade of the best street musicians in the world.

# Now Showing

### Caserma Ederle Theater

Aug. 8	CLOSED	
Aug. 9	The Da Vinci Code (PG13)	7 p.m.
Aug. 10	Over the Hedge (PG)	4 p.m.
	X-Men: The Last Stand (PG13)	7 p.m.
Aug. 11	Pirates of the Caribbean:	
	Deadman's Chest (PG13)	7 p.m.
Aug. 12	Pirates of the Caribbean:	
	Deadman's Chest (PG13)	3 p.m.
	The Omen (R)	7 p.m.
Aug. 13	The Break Up (PG13)	4 p.m.
	The Omen (R)	7 p.m.
Aug. 14	CLOSED	
Aug. 15	CLOSED	

### Camp Darby Theater

Aug. 10	X-Men: The Last Stand (PG13)	6 p.m.
Aug. 11	Superman Returns (PG13)	6 p.m.
Aug. 12	The Omen (R)	6 p.m.
Aug. 13	Cars (G)	2 p.m.

### Movie Synopsis

**THE BREAK UP** - *Vince Vaughn, Jennifer Aniston*. Pushed to the breaking-point after their latest, “why can’t you do this one little thing for me?” argument, art dealer Brooke calls it quits with her boyfriend, Gary, who hosts bus tours of Chicago. What follows is a series of remedies, war tactics, overtures and underminings suggested by the former couple’s friends, confidantes and the occasional total stranger.

**THE DA VINCI CODE** - *Tom Hanks, Jean Reno*. The murder of a curator at the Louvre reveals a sinister plot to uncover a secret that has been protected since the days of Christ. Only the victim’s granddaughter and Robert Langdon, a famed symbologist, can untangle the clues he left behind. The duo become both suspects and detectives searching for not only the murderer but also the stunning secret of the ages he was charged to protect.

**SUPERMAN RETURNS** - *Brandon Routh, Kate Bosworth*. Following a mysterious absence of several years, the Man of Steel, Superman, comes back to Earth—but things have changed. While an old enemy plots to render him powerless once and for all, Superman faces the heartbreaking realization that the woman he loves, Lois Lane, has moved on with her life. Or has she? Superman’s bittersweet return challenges him to bridge the distance between them while finding a place in a society that has learned to survive without him.

**X-MEN: THE LAST STAND** - *Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart*. The continuing adventures of the superpowered group, the X-Men, led by Professor Xavier, and based at his school for gifted students, as they try to foster good will for mutants like themselves, in a world where some people are born with extraordinary powers, and many ordinary humans fear them for it.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.  
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.  
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

Every year, the city invites at its expense 20 groups, but beside them many others join the festival.

Last year 1218 different shows were performed by a total of 757 artists coming from 26 different countries. Listen to the rhythms of African drums, Dixie bands or the crazy gags of some English groups. There will also be virtuosos

playing the most original instruments: saws, washboards, cowbells, and crystal glasses.

The Festival takes place Aug. 21-27 with two shows a day Monday-Saturday at 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and on Sunday only one show from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

If you want to participate go to *www.ferrarabuskers.com*





# Cala' del Sasso, 4444 steps

Story and photos by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

Most people would agree that climbing 4,444 steps could be considered good exercise; especially when carrying many pounds of goods on their shoulders.

That was happening daily during the 15th century on a path connecting Sasso, a small town on the plateau near Asiago, down to the valley.

The Cala' del Sasso, an abbreviation of *calata*, meaning descent, was planned and started in 1388

when Asiago decided to have an independent route to the valley.

At the time, the scarcity of modern equipment and the steep angle of the slope made it an ingenious project. This flight of steps solved the problem of crossing other nearby towns, and the community of Sasso avoided paying taxes because of the right of way.

The steps headed directly to *Valstagna*, a port on the Brenta River, which represented the most direct way to trade with the Republic of Venice.

In fact, timber was one of the primary materials that people living in the plateau exchanged for staple commodities (meat, bread, etc.).

The logs, especially beech wood, were used at the time for building oars for the Venetian ships and the route to the lagoon passed through the Brenta River.

One hill near the path is still named *Col dei Remi*, or Oars' Hill, because it supplied a large quantity of wood to the Venetian naval dockyard until the late 1700s.

In order to get to the river, the highlanders slid the material down on the stone-paved trail adjacent to the steps. Then they returned, carrying on their shoulders all the products they needed to survive in the upland. Sometimes this round trip was happening two or three times a day.

This route has been repaired several times to keep the Cala' usable throughout the centuries.

Unfortunately, a flood destroyed parts of the steps in 1966, and some repairing was necessary to be able to walk again through this road engineering work.

The path is about 2.5 kilometers, one way, with a drop of 700 meters, reaching in some spots a gradient of 40 percent. At the beginning of the walk, the path goes through a limestone ravine where the environment displays from the start a variety of flowers and plants.

Because of the altitude, ferns and moss-covered stones accompany the steep slope to the top, where beech, hazel and maple trees abound in the humidity, which typical of the prealpine climate.

Late summer and early fall are the suggested times of the year to hike the route. It is best not to go on rainy days because of the possibility of slipping and sliding.

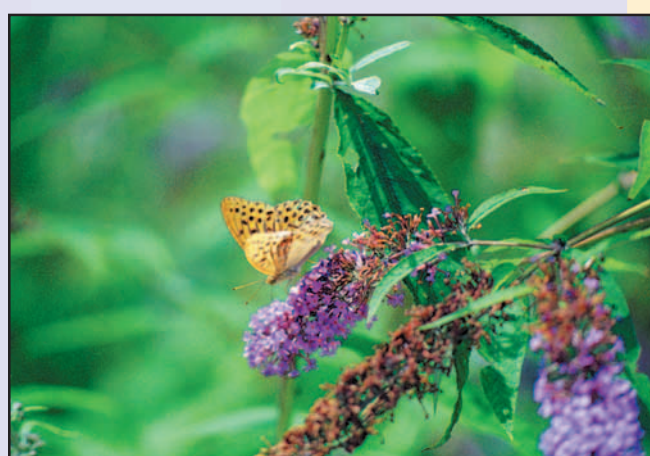


Above: The thick vegetation surrounds the Cala' del Sasso. Climbers descend steps adjacent to the gutter, which was used for sliding timber down to the valley between the 14th and 18th centuries.

## Flora and Fauna



Some of the examples of the flora and fauna visible during the walk include: One of the various types of butterflies that fly around in the first stretch of the path (bottom left); some wildflowers and raspberries are the result of the humid climate typical of the Prealpi; and the hills before the mountain range of the Alps (left). Below: a little goat takes a break to look at you while searching out the best food hiding between bushes and wildflowers.



Far up: The beginning of the path goes through a limestone ravine surrounded by different varieties of plants and bushes.



Morning is the best time to start the walk because it takes about four hours to hike to the top and back.

And, because of the steep parts during the walk, hiking shoes are recommended.

Annually, during one special night the Cala' is the destination of many visitors who perform a torchlight procession starting at 7 p.m.

The event, called 'La Fiaccolata storica della Cala' del Sasso' is scheduled the Saturday before Ferragosto, (Aug. 15) one of the most important Italian holidays.

This year the torchlight procession will take place Aug. 12.

People who would like to participate in this yearly event need to register prior to Aug. 9.

Information is available (in Italian) by calling 338-294-0665 or visiting the Web site: [www.sassodiasiago.it](http://www.sassodiasiago.it).

If you are interested in experiencing the Cala', not only in the occasion of the Fiaccolata, drive north from Vicenza to Bassano and follow SS 47 in the direction of Trento.

Once you reach Carpane', cross the Valstagna bridge (to the left).

Once downtown, look for yellow signs for Cala' del Sasso and stop at the small parking area before the first hairpin curve, in the direction of Foza.